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and
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COUNSELOR CONNECTION

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Trimble County student wins essay contest

A Trimble County High School junior is the winner of a \$500 scholarship essay contest, earning her school a photo shoot for pictures to be used in statewide college planning publications.

Megan Stewart's essay drew judges in immediately: "Crowded classrooms, limited course offerings and a 48 percent free and reduced lunch student population ... These are realities in my school, but they are not the characteristics by which my school is defined."



The judges' unanimous selection of Stewart's essay was based on her well-written testimonial to her school that went beyond test scores, clubs and athletics.

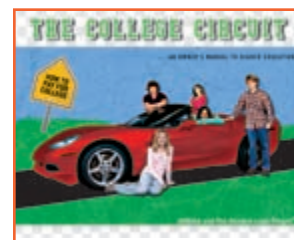
Trimble County High "is a diverse group of people who, regardless of circumstances, continue to engage in learning, leadership development and positive growth," Stewart wrote. She saluted administrators, teachers, parents and her fellow students for building a community by tutoring students, providing additional classes and raising money to support disease research and fund sports programs.

The essay captivated judges and made it stand "head and shoulders" above the other entries. "This essay captures the essence of the school succinctly," one judge said. "This was an easy choice."

The contest, sponsored by KHEAA and The Student Loan People, gathered over a hundred entries statewide.

Stewart and other Trimble County High School students will participate in a photo shoot at the school in January. The pictures will be used in publications from KHEAA and The Student Loan People.

The College Circuit now available



New editions of *The College Circuit* are now available for distribution to middle school and high school students in Kentucky.

The 32-page booklet is subtitled *An Owner's Manual to Higher Education* and uses an automotive theme to give students information about their college and financial aid options. The cover features students from the Bowling Green area and a red Corvette convertible from the National Corvette Museum in Bowling Green, which graciously allowed KHEAA and The Student Loan People to take photos there.

"*The College Circuit* combines the information that was included in two previous booklets we had, one just for middle school and one for high school," said Susan Hopkins, Outreach Services Manager for KHEAA and The Student Loan People. "The first section of *The College Circuit* is for all students, followed by sections for middle school students and high school students."

One part you may find especially effective in working with students involves having them select their choices for housing, transportation, food, educational level, etc. The next page asks students to add up their monthly expenses, based on the answers they selected. They can then compare how much they're spending with how much they'll make each month, depending on their educational level.

If you're interested in copies of *The College Circuit* for your students, please contact the KHEAA/Student Loan People Outreach counselor for your area or call Summer Gortney at 502.696.7377.

It's nearly FAFSA time

Encourage your students to complete the FAFSA as soon after the first of the year as possible. Students seeking college aid for the 2007–2008 school year should file the FAFSA online at www.fafsa.ed.gov as soon as possible.

The FAFSA is used to apply for most need-based state, federal and institutional aid programs, including those administered by KHEAA. Some student aid funds are limited, and those who apply early have the best chance to receive all of the aid for which they may qualify.

Students who file the FAFSA online will get their results 7 to 14 days faster than those who file by mail. Students can also file a paper FAFSA, available from high school guidance offices and college financial aid offices.

Included in this edition of the *Counselor Connection* is a copy of the FAFSA insert that provides updated information for KHEAA-administered state aid programs and a listing of eligible Kentucky colleges. KHEAA would appreciate it if you would make copies and distribute them to all your college-bound students.

USDE finalizes two ACG/SMART rules

The U.S. Department of Education has issued final rules governing two aspects of the new Academic Competitiveness Grants (ACG) and the National Science & Mathematics Access to Retain Talent (SMART) Grants.

The department requested comments from the financial aid community about rules concerning prior enrollment in a postsecondary program and Federal Pell Grant eligibility.

Under the proposed ACG rules, students would not be eligible for ACG grants their first year in college if the students had been previously enrolled as regular students in an undergraduate program. Several people asked how this would affect high school students enrolled in dual credit programs. The final rule states that students are not eligible for a first-year ACG if the students were previously enrolled as regular students in an ACG-eligible program. High school students who took college courses but not as regular college students would be eligible for a first-year ACG upon becoming regular students in an eligible program after finishing high school. However, high school students enrolled as regular students in a college program would not be eligible for a first-year ACG. After they finish their first academic year in an eligible college program, they could be eligible for a second-year ACG award.

The department's original rules called for students to be eligible for ACG and SMART awards only if they were also receiving a Federal Pell Grant for the same payment period. After reviewing the comments it received, the department changed the rule to allow students to be eligible for ACG and SMART awards if they received a Pell Grant during the same award year. This means students who receive Pell Grants during the fall and spring semesters may receive ACG and SMART awards for summer school.

FAFSA
FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID
July 1, 2007 – June 30, 2008

Use this form to apply for federal and state student grants, work-study and loans.
Or apply free online at www.fafsa.ed.gov.

Applying by the Deadlines
For federal aid, submit your application as early as possible, but no earlier than January 1, 2007. We must receive your application no later than June 30, 2008. Your college must have your correct, complete information by your last day of enrollment in the 2007–2008 school year.
For state or college aid, the deadline may be as early as January 2007. See the table to the right for state deadlines. You may also need to complete additional forms. Check with your high school guidance counselor or a financial aid administrator at your college about state and college sources of student aid and deadlines.
If you are filing close to one of these deadlines, we recommend you file online at www.fafsa.ed.gov. This is the fastest and easiest way to apply for aid.

Using Your Tax Return
If you are supposed to file a 2006 federal income tax return, we recommend that you complete it before filing out this form. If you have not yet filed your return, you can still submit your FAFSA, but you must provide income and tax information. Once you file your tax return, correct any income or tax information that is different from what you initially submitted on your FAFSA.

Filling Out the FAFSA
Your answers on this form will be read electronically. Therefore:
• use black ink and fill in ovals completely;
• print clearly in CAPITAL letters and skip a box between words;
• report dollar amounts (such as \$12,356.47) like this:

\$	12	356	47
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 no cents

Yellow is for student information and **purple** is for parent information.
If you or your family has unusual circumstances (such as loss of employment), complete this form to the extent you can, then submit it as instructed and consult with the financial aid office at the college you plan to attend.
For more information or help in filling out the FAFSA, call 1-800-4-FED-AID (1-800-433-3243). TTY users (for the hearing-impaired) may call 1-800-730-8913. Or visit our Web site at www.studentaid.ed.gov.

Mailing Your FAFSA
After you complete this application, make a copy of pages 7 through 10 for your records. Then mail the original of only pages 7 through 10 in the attached envelope or send it to: Federal Student Aid Programs, P.O. Box 7001, Mt. Vernon, IL 62864-0071. Do not send the worksheets on page 5; keep them for your records.
If you do not receive the results of your application—a Student Aid Report (SAR)—within three weeks, please check online at www.fafsa.ed.gov or call 1-800-433-3243. If you provided your e-mail address in question 13, you will receive information about your application within a few days after we process it.

Let's Get Started!
Now go to page 7 of the application form and begin filling it out. Refer to the notes as instructed.

STATE AID DEADLINES
www.fafsa.ed.gov
Check with your financial aid administrator for these dates and territories:
AL, "AS, CO, "CT, "FM, GA, "GU, "HI, ID, "MH, "MP, ME, "NE, "NM, "NV, PR, "PW, "SD, "TX, UT, "VA, "W, "WI, WA, WI and WY.
AK April 15, 2007 (date received)
AR For Academic Challenge - June 1, 2007 (date received)
AR For Workforce Grant - Contact your financial aid administrator.
AZ June 30, 2008 (date received)
"CA For initial awards - March 2, 2007
For additional community college awards - September 2, 2007 (date postmarked)
"DC June 30, 2007 (date received by mail)
DE April 15, 2007 (date received)
FL May 15, 2007 (date processed)
"IA July 1, 2007 (date received)
"IL For initial applicants - September 30, 2007
Continuing applicants - August 15, 2007 (date received)
IN March 10, 2007 (date received)
"KS April 1, 2007 (date received)
"KY March 15, 2007 (date received)
"LA July 1, 2007 (date received)
"MA May 1, 2007 (date received)
MD March 1, 2007 (date received)
ME May 1, 2007 (date received)
MI March 1, 2007 (date received)
MN 30 days after term starts (date received)
MO April 1, 2007 (date received)
MT March 1, 2007 (date received)
NC March 15, 2007 (date received)
ND March 15, 2007 (date received)
NH May 1, 2007 (date received)
"NJ June 1, 2007 (if you received a Tuition Aid Grant in 2006–2007)
All other applicants - October 1, 2007, fall & spring terms
March 1, 2008, spring term only (date received)
"NY May 1, 2008 (date received)
OR October 1, 2007 (date received)
OR April 15, 2007 (date received) for best consideration.
"OR March 1, 2007 (date received)
For dual aid - Contact your financial aid administrator.
"PA For 2006–2007 State Grant recipients & all non-2006–2007 State Grant recipients in degree programs - May 1, 2007
All other applicants - August 1, 2007 (date received)
"RI March 1, 2007 (date received)
"SC June 30, 2007 (date received)
For State Grant - March 1, 2007
For State Lottery - September 1, 2007 (date received)
"WV March 1, 2007 (date received)
If for priority consideration, submit application by date specified.
• Applicants encouraged to obtain proof of mailing.
• Additional form may be required.

College Goal Sunday . . . Coming in January

The Kentucky Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators, in cooperation with the Lumina Foundation, KHEAA and The Student Loan Peoplesm, sponsors College Goal Sunday to help students and parents fill out the FAFSA. This event will be held **January 28**.

Financial aid professionals will be available at 20 sites in 19 Kentucky communities to walk students and their parents through the 2007–2008 FAFSA. Families attending College Goal Sunday should bring all the information needed for filling out their tax forms. Financial aid professionals will help them use that information to complete the FAFSA.

A \$500 scholarship will be awarded at each site. The winner will be drawn from the students who turn in an evaluation sheet at the end of the session. The scholarships can be used at most Kentucky colleges.

Following are the sites for College Goal Sunday. Students and parents who plan to attend should arrive by 2 p.m. For more information, call toll free 888.452.7322.



City	Site	City	Site
Ashland	Ashland Community and Technical College J.B. Sowards Auditorium 1400 College Drive	Hopkinsville	Hopkinsville Community College Auditorium, Main Campus 720 North Drive
Barbourville	Union College Sharp Academic Center Room 3125 310 College Street	Lexington	Bluegrass Community and Technical College 230 Oswald Building 470 Cooper Drive
Bowling Green	Western Kentucky University Downing University Center Auditorium 1906 College Heights Boulevard	Louisville	Jefferson Community and Technical College VTI Building, Room 301 109 East Broadway
Campbellsville	Campbellsville University Student Union Building Little Auditorium 1 University Drive	Madisonville	Male High School Cafeteria 4409 Preston Highway
Crestview Hills	Thomas More College Administration Building The Commons 333 Thomas More Parkway	Morehead	Madisonville Community College Health Campus Byrnes Auditorium 750 North Laffoon Street
Crestwood	South Oldham High School Cafeteria 5900 Highway 329	Morehead	Morehead State University Crager Room, 3rd Floor Adron Doran University Center University Boulevard
Elizabethtown	Elizabethtown Community and Technical College Regional Postsecondary Education Center Rooms 505-516 610 College Street Road	Owensboro	Brescia University Science Building Taylor Lecture Hall 629 Frederica Street
Frankfort	Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority Paul P. Borden Conference Room 100 Airport Road	Paducah	West Kentucky Community and Technical College Crounse Hall 4810 Alben Barkley Drive
Hazard	Hazard Community and Technical College J. Marvin Jolly Classroom Building, Room 152-JCC One Community College Drive	Prestonsburg	Big Sandy Community and Technical College Student Services Building Room 203A One Bert T. Combs Drive
		Richmond	Eastern Kentucky University Student Services Building Park Drive
		Somerset	Somerset Community College Cafeteria, Student Commons 808 Monticello Street

Hilderbrand joins KHEAA as KEES coordinator



Sheila Hilderbrand has joined KHEAA as the KEES coordinator in the Student Aid Branch, replacing Becky Gilpatrick, who was promoted to Student Aid Branch manager. Sheila has a bachelor of business administration and a master's degree in adult and higher education from Morehead State University. Prior to joining KHEAA, Sheila worked with the state grant and scholarship programs in the financial aid office at Morehead.

Sheila can be reached at (502) 696-7393 or shilderbrand@kheaa.com.

New features added to GoHigherKY.org

KHEAA has added new features to GoHigherKY.org, including a résumé builder. Users can access the résumé builder through the Career Center and through myGoHigher. The résumé builder lets users create and print their own résumé, which can be automatically saved in myGoHigher and changed as needed.

Users of GoHigherKY.org can now access about 500 video clips in the Career Center module. Students, adult learners, parents, counselors and others in the educational community can view these video clips to receive detailed information about a particular career in the Career Center. The videos are also available in Spanish. To view the video clips, go to the Career Center and click on either the List of Careers by Clusters or the Alphabetical List of Careers.



College Info Road Show driver Mark Hoover and outreach services assistant Summer Gortney worked the KHEAA/SLP booth at the Kentucky Counseling Association conference October 17–20.

KHEAA and The Student Loan People publish the *Counselor Connection* to share information about student financial aid, college preparation and college planning. Comments and suggestions are always welcome. Please send them to publications@kheaa.com.

LEAN ON US, FROM CLASS TO CAREER.



Kentucky's trusted source for grants, scholarships and loans.